

WASHINGTON STAR
STATINT 1968
AUG

CPYRGHT

CIA Suspends Duties Of Tofte During Probe

Hans V. Tofte has been suspended from his duties, as a top-level official at the Central Intelligence Agency during an investigation of whether he violated security regulations by taking secret material from the agency as "homework."

"I was told that I was to work directly with the top director of security until this thing was worked out one way or the other," Tofte said last night. "I have no other duties than to cooperate with him."

The CIA said yesterday that one of its agents saw classified documents in Tofte's home at 1667 35th St. NW while house-hunting on July 23 and returned with an agency security officer the next day to retrieve them.

In a report to police on the following day, Tofte's wife said that \$19,000 in jewelry disappeared from a first-floor closet about the same time the documents were whisked away.

The Danish-born Tofte served with the OSS during World War II and has been with CIA now for nearly 16 years. Although the nature of his duties have not been made public, his

salary of a little less than \$25,000 a year indicates that he is in the upper echelons of the agency.

Although the CIA said the employee who discovered the papers in Tofte's home did not know Tofte was also a CIA man, the accounts given by Tofte and J. C. Chatel, a realtor to whom he sold the building in June, indicate the other CIA man may have known what he was looking for.

The documents, Tofte said, were in a third-floor library which was off-limits even to his wife. They were wrapped in both a blanket and a tarpaulin because the Toftes were moving to a new home.

In answer to an ad, Kenneth R. Slocum of 2911 P St. NW and his wife contacted Chatel on July 23 and dropped by the 35th Street house to look at a basement apartment, Chatel said.

They were shown the basement and also the first floor of the building, Chatel said, but then Slocum went to the third floor, which was not for rent,

and apparently looked at the package of documents.

The next day, the Slocums and Charles B. Speake, a security representative of the CIA, returned to the house and got the documents, the CIA said.

It was on the next day that Mrs. Tofte reported both the documents—which she described to police as "manuscript material"—and \$19,000 in jewelry missing. Lt. John Kline of the 7th Precinct said late yesterday he had questioned Slocum, who denied any knowledge of the jewels and said he had not even opened the door of the first-floor closet where they were kept.

Neither Tofte nor the CIA would describe the documents involved, but there was reason to believe they consisted largely of Tofte's own writings, based on his long experience in intelligence work.

When Tofte was asked if he had ever had trouble before about taking materials home from work, he said:

"There's hardly anyone who's been involved in such a long, active life, who doesn't have some small security violations . . . like traffic tickets."